

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-12 and 15-20 are pending in this application. Claims 3, 5, 13 and 14 have been canceled. Claims 7, 8, 11, 12, 15-18 and 20 have been allowed.

**Response to Argument**

On page 2 of the Office Action the Examiner responds to our arguments by indicating that a certified translation of the Japanese priority document must be filed in order to establish the priority date of March 24, 1999 since the Japanese application was supplied to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in the Japanese language. A certified English translation of the Japanese priority document is attached hereto thereby establishing the priority date of the present application as March 24, 1999.

**Claim Rejections under 35 USC §102**

Claims 1, 2 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bour et al. (U.S. 2003/0053504).

The present invention provides for an AlGaN cladding layer (7), a first GaN layer (8), covered by a current blocking layer (9). An opening ( $W_1$ ) is provided in the current blocking layer (9) which is significantly smaller than the width ( $W_2$ ) of the first GaN layer (8). As shown in Figure 2 and discussed on page 21, lines 5-16 of the specification the ratio of  $W_2 / W_1$  is between 0.1 and 0.95 and preferably between 0.1 and 0.8. Further, a second GaN layer (10) is provided on top of the

current blocking layer (9).

Bour et al. describes a a laser diode having a growth substrate (110) on which is placed a layer (115) made of AlGaN:Si to reduce optical leakage. In contact with layer (115) is a n-electrode (195). A n-type cladding layer (121) is placed on layer (115). In this embodiment photoresist is applied to layer (185) to define the top of ridge structure (111). A burying layer (155) is positioned over layer (185) with windows through burying layer (155) to allow p-electrode (190) to contact layer (185) and n-electrode (195) to contact layer (115).

A certified English translation of the Japanese priority document is filed herewith establishing a priority date of March 24, 1999, which is believed to overcome the Bour et al reference.

Bour et al. has a U.S. filing date of September 29, 1999, and a publication date of March 20, 2003. The U.S. filing date of the instant application is March 22, 2000, and the filing date of the original Japanese application upon which this application claims priority is March 24, 1999.

Therefore, Bour et al. should not be considered as prior art provided under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) because of the present application claims priority March 24, 1999 which is before the filing date of Bour et al.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Bour et al. (U.S. 2003/0053504) is respectfully requested.

**Claim Rejections under 35 USC §103**

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bour et al. (U.S. 2003/0053504) as applied to claims 1 and 2 above, and further in view of Sugiura et al. (Pat. 5,932,896).

Sugiura et al. describes a semiconductor device in which the current blocking layer is composed of indium and gallium.

Claim 6 is allowable by virtue of its dependence upon an allowable independent claim. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bour et al. (US 2003/0053504) and further in view of Sugiura et al. (PN 5,932,896) is respectfully requested.

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bour et al. (U.S. 2003/0053504).

Claim 10 is allowable by virtue of its dependence upon an allowable independent claim. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bour et al. (US 2003/0053504) is respectfully requested.

Claim 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bour et al. (U.S. 2003/0053504) as applied to claims 1 and 4 above.

Claim 19 is allowable by virtue of its dependence upon an allowable independent claim.

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Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bour et al. (US 2003/0053504) is respectfully requested.

**Conclusion**

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, the claims, as amended, are believed to be in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosure: Certified English translation of Japanese priority document (No. 11-079469)